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Glucometer Upgrade

Bayer has developed an upgraded version of their *Contour* glucometer, called *Contour Next EZ*. The new meter has a number of advantages over its predecessor, and we will be replacing your current meters (in homes using *Contour* only) over the next month or two.

The new device is more accurate, with a maximum variance of 10% from lab glucose values, compared to an allowable margin of 20% previously. Blood can also be reapplied to the strip within 30 seconds if the initial volume was insufficient. Connecting the new glucometer to a PC or MAC computer will yield a graph of blood glucose vs. time for the last 480 tests.

The good news is that the new meter looks (although slightly darker) and works exactly like your current meter. The bad news is that the current strips are not compatible with the old device. Since the strips are very expensive, we would like to use them all up before transitioning to the new meter in each building. As such,

your consultant pharmacist will arrange for one person in each facility to control strip distribution throughout the home. When the supply of old strips is exhausted, the new meters will be introduced to the facility. Refills for the old strips will not be processed during the transition period.

Cytotoxics Continued

Cytotoxic drug administration continues to be a hot topic in our facilities. To ensure the nursing staff recognizes that special handling requirements may be necessary when administering these products, we will be augmenting our notification procedures.

Each new prescription for a cytotoxic or biohazardous medication will be accompanied by a *Clinical Concern* notification. The note will indicate which category the agent falls under and direct the staff to Policy and Procedures 4.13 and 4.16 for appropriate precautions. A brightly coloured information sheet listing the critical points of each of these policies will also be sent.

To ensure subsequent shifts are aware of the potential risk, a new resident identification card will be sent for the window portion of your pouch container. The card will show the drug name and “Cytotoxic” or “Biohazardous” and include a biohazard symbol to attract

the attention of the nurse. Labels will be sent for all existing orders shortly.

New Inhalers for COPD

Two new inhalers, Tudorza Genuair® and Seebri Breezhaler®, have recently been released for COPD treatment. They are each anticholinergic medications, like Spiriva®, but the Tudorza device is unique and should be a good fit for seniors, whether at home or in a facility.

The Tudorza (aclidinium) Genuair® device is preloaded, so the step of opening the inhaler and placing a capsule inside is eliminated. Activation is also easy, as pressing a large green button sets the dose for delivery. The dose window turns green to confirm the dose is ready and displays the word “Go” if the user still isn’t sure. What’s really neat about this device is that it “tells” you when the dose has been inhaled. After inhalation, a “click” is heard and the dose window turns red and displays “Done”.

Tudorza® requires more inspiratory pressure than Spiriva® (35 vs 20 ml/min) to draw a dose into the lungs. It is also not covered by ODB yet. Once coverage is granted, it will be a good option for nursing convenience and assurance of dose delivery. The Seebri® device is covered and works much like Spiriva®.